GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:746
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2005
SAFETY FROM TSUNAMI
Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any study regarding the safety of life and property of the people living along the coastal areas as result of Tsunami waves;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount made available to Geological Survey of India for this prupose;

(d) whether the Geological Survey of India proposes to consult the specialists in this field; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b) : Geological Survey of India (GSI) is not directly involved in the safety aspects of the people living in the coastal areas. However, GSI is one of the members in the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Committee on resettlement issues as a sequel to the Tsunmai in Andaman and Nicobar region.

GSI has taken immediate action for carrying out multifarious geoscientific studies on the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and Tsunami of 26th December 2004 as detailed below -

(i) A team of scientists led by the Director General, GSI visited South Andaman and Baratang Islands to study the effects of earthquake and Tsunami. Preliminary results of this study has already been communicated to Andaman and Nicobar Administration and other organizations involved in similar studies.

(ii) Several teams from GSI have carried out detailed scientific studies in the Andaman group of islands after the earthquake. These include Macro-seismic (post earthquake damage survey to constrain earthquake intensity) survey, Global Positioning System (GPS) survey in campaign mode for constraining ground deformation, study of aftershocks with five digital seismographs deployed in the islands at Port Blair, Carnic (Car Nicobar), Hut Bay (Little Andaman), Rangat (Middle Andaman) and Diglipur (North Andaman). Nearly 6500 aftershocks have been recorded by GSI, which show a trend of continuous release of stress energy.

(iii) Teams of Geoscientists from GSI have carried out studies on the effects of Tsunami (post - tsunami survey) in the coastal tract of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

(iv) To study the changes in the offshore domain, GSI has undertaken Bathymetry and magnetic surveys out in the sea around Andaman and Nicobar islands to study the submarine geomorphological changes.

(v) GSI has posted all relevant information and data on its Website i.e. www.gsi.gov.in and this website is being continuously updated.

(vi) During 25th to 27th January, 2005, GSI members alongwith other DST Committee Members visited Port Blair in connection with collection of data on submergence/re-settlement issues in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The expert team studied run up/ submergence/ inundation problem in the area.

(c) : No, Sir. No specific amount is made available to Geological Survey of India for this purpose. However, GSI utilized its own budgetary allocation for the said studies.

(d) & (e) : Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India has consulted the specialists in this field. GSI representatives have participated in the brainstorming session organized by DST in New Delhi during 21st to 22nd January 2005 and had discussions with foreign experts. GSI attended an international conference on Tsunami at Phuket, Thailand during 28th to 31st January 2005. The Geological Survey of Japan approached GSI on 23rd January 2005 for a collaborative project to study the details of the Tsunami in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Earth Science Sector, Natural Resources, Canada has proposed a collaborative programme between India and Canada on an overall disaster mitigation efforts which include Tsunamis.